Bienvenido “Bones” Banez, Jr.

Life and work[edit]

Bienvenido "Bones" Banez, Jr. was born on June 7, 1962 in Davao City, Philippines.[3] He studied at the Learning Center of the Arts (now Ford Academy of the Arts) in that city, where one of his tutors was Victorio C. Edades, Jr.[4]

In 2002 he won the Asian Fellowship Painting Competition of the Vermont Studio Center in Vermont, USA.[1]:47

In 2004, Bañez went to New York where he now lives. In 2010, he was included in *Lexikon der phantastischen Künstler*.[1]:47

He is a Board Member of the Williamsburg Circle of International Arts and Letters.

Between 2009 and 2014 several drawings and paintings were acquired for the Robert J. Wickenheiser John Milton collection at the University of South Carolina.

In 2017 a portrait of John Milton was added to the Milton’s Cottage collection, and he was named to the editorial board of *Emanations*, a print anthology of poetry, fiction and essay published by International Authors.

John Milton and “Surrealmageddon”

Following the model of his colleague and sometime collaborator Terrance Lindall, Bañez has devoted considerable energies to projects inspired by poet John Milton. While there is much to commend, the philosophical relationship between Bañez and Milton is weakened by the popular influence of William Blake and his lensed reading of Milton, which is clearly flawed. The influence of Blake is not unusual, however, among artists and poets, to whom Blake is awarded the status of “prophet”, as if artistic and poetic enthusiasm is more important than a careful and accurate reading of poetic texts emphasizing the careful identification of historical and philosophical contexts. Among inspired poets and painters, Bañez’s

amplification of the “heroic” status of Milton’s Satan is among the more intriguing and detailed expressions of such “Beatnik” misreadings. Of course, such misconception is arguably appropriate to our times, and is itself an enactment of Bañez’s hermeneutical technique.

An intriguing theme in Bañez’s work is his protean notion of “Surrealmageddon”. A fusion of early-20th Century Surrealistic theorizing, satire, faux-occult posturing, Blakean readings of John Milton, Terrance Lindall’s outspoken criticism of the politics of the contemporary art “scene”, and apocalyptic Jewish and Christian eschatology, the concept of “Surrealmageddon” lends hermeneutic coherence to the dynamic and unsettling figures that populate Bañez’s canvases. Obscure, ironic, and horrific, the notion of Surrealmageddon underscores a manifold vision of globalism, contemporary fascism, ecological devastation, cultural decline, and provocative species of existential and theological skepticism. Drawing unevenly on Bañez’s concept, the collaborative Introduction appearing in the third volume of International Authors’ arts anthology, *Emanations: Third Eye* amply dilates on the idea to remarkable (and humorous) effect.

Selected exhibitions[edit]

- *Dinner with the Devil* [5] Williamsburg Art & Historical Center, Brooklyn, New York, USA, Sept 19, 2014
- *Satanic Verses Reading* [6] Williamsburg Art & Historical Center, Brooklyn, New York, USA, Sept, 2014
- *The first presentation of The Satanic Verses of Bones Bañez* Williamsburg Art & Historical Center, Brooklyn, New York, USA, Jan 25, 2014
- *Satan’s Peculiar Grace*[7] 14th Annual WAH Salon Art Club Show, Williamsburg Art & Historical Center, Brooklyn, New York, USA, Jan 26-Feb 24, 2013
- *The Society For Art Of Imagination Exhibition*,[8] Phantasten Museum (Phantastenmuseum Wien), Palais Palffy; Vienna, Austria 2012
- *WAH's 16th Anniversary, The Grand Harvest*:[9] International Juried Show with Awards, WAH Center, Brooklyn, NY, USA, Oct 27-Dec 9, 2012
- The Visionaries Show at the QCC Art Gallery,[10] Queensborough Community College, New York, USA. "Visionaries: The Art Of The Fantastic" July 12, 2012 - to September 20, 2012
- *Paradise Lost Collectors Weekend And Antiquarian Books and Art Exhibit*,[11] WAH Center, Brooklyn, NY, USA, April 14–15, 2012
- WAH Salon Art Club,[12] WAH Center, Brooklyn, NY, USA: 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006

- *Fifty Year Fantastic*,[13] The Society for Art of Imagination, United Kingdom, London, 2010
- *Great Artists Exhibit*,[14] Museo Dabawenyo, Davao, Philippines, 2010
- *Selected Contemporary Works From The Permanent Collection, PART 2 (2002–Present)*,[15] Williamsburg Art & Historical Center, Brooklyn, New York, USA
- *Paradise Lost Festival and Exhibit Celebrating Milton's 400th Birthday*,[16] 2008
- *Brave Destiny* Exhibit,[17] WAH Center, Brooklyn, NY, USA, 2003

Reviews and publications[edit]

- Poetry: “The Electric Tree of Knowledge”, “Diabolyric #1”, “Diabolyric #2”, pp. 230-283; illustrations: 28, 281, 282. Kaplan, Carter, Ed. (2021). *Emanations: When a Planet was a Planet*. p. xvi. Brookline, Massachusetts: International Authors. ISBN 9798473980073 Search this book on ..
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- Illustration: p. 138. Kaplan, Carter, Ed. (2016). *Emanations: Foray into Forever*. Brookline, Massachusetts: International Authors. ISBN 9781499703719 Search this book on ..
- Bañez, Bienvenido Bones and Dr Horace Jeffery Hodges (2014) *The Satanic Verses of Bones Bañez - Signed by Authors and Artist, Paperback*, Yuko Nii Foundation; 1ST edition (2014). ISBN 1495117340 Search this book on .. ISBN 978-1495117343 Search this book on ..
- Illustrations: 304, 305; “Statement and Confession”, p. 303; contribution to the Introduction, “Surrelamageddon,” which includes the work of various scholars, poets and visual artists. Kaplan, Carter,

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- *Visionaries: The Art of the Fantastic, 1st Edition*. ISBN 1936658143 Search this book on .. 2012: QCC Art Gallery Press.
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- *Surrealism in the Philippines (An interview with multidisciplinary artist and writer Danny Castillones Sillada).*[18] 2012: ArtSlant, New York.
- *Visionaries: the Art of the Fantastic*,[19] a Queens Public Television review.
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- Index of Painters and Sculptors Biography and Works Around the World[28]

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2. ↑ "Mindanaoan Artist in Lexicon of Surrealism". Filipinas Mag. Retrieved 2014-05-05.
3. ↑ "Bienvenido Bones Bañez, Jr. by Phillip Somozo". James Baldwin Cohen. Retrieved 2014-01-09.
4. ↑ *Revisiting the Art of Victorio Edades.*, M Magazine: Life and Living in Mindanao, Issue No. 2, July 2008, p. 44. Margot Marfori writes: *"Edades and Aida Ford encouraged talent to flourish and flower further. Evidence of this is seen in one of the students of the very first group under his tutelage in the Center. Ben Bañez, for example, who is now based in New York City was recently conferred as one of the foremost surrealist painters of the world."*
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